

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0700

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

USUN NEW YORK 0032

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, COE

SUBJECT: COUNCIL OF EUROPE PESSIMISTIC ON EUROPEAN AND
ATLANTIC RELATIONS

1. PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE SEVENTEEN-NATION COUNCIL OF EUROPE EXPRESSED PESSIMISM REGARDING STATE AND PROSPECTS FOR EUROPEAN UNITY AND ATLANTIC COOPERATION, AT JUST COMPLETED SESSION OF COUNCIL CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY. THESE WIDESPREAD SENTIMENTS CONTRAST VIVIDLY WITH THE NEAR EUPHORIA WHICH HAS CHARACTERIZED DEBATES IN STRASBOURG DURING THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS.

2. ASSEMBLY RAPPORTEUR AUSTRIAN WALTHER HOFER OPENED DEBATE WITH A BLEAK STATEMENT ON EUROPE ADrift AND WASHINGTON PLAGUED BY WATERGATE. HE AND ALL OTHER PARLIAMENTARIANS WHO SPOKE UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF SOUND ATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP TO
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EUROPEAN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SECURITY AND CALLED FOR UN-

SPECIFIED EUROPEAN INITIATIVES TO THIS END. UK CONSERVATIVE JULIAN CRITCHLEY SPOKE CONVINCINGLY OF DANGERS FOR EUROPE OF GROWING US NATIONALISM. HE SPECIFICALLY CITED POTENTIAL BILATERAL CONCESSION TO THE USSR IN SALT, MBFR AND CSCE BY A WEAKENED US ADMINISTRATION.

3. A NUMBER OF PARLIAMENTARIANS, GENERALLY YOUNGER ONES, QUESTIONED THE EUROPEAN IDEAL ITSELF. FOR UK CONSERVATIVE LORD SELSDON "THE GENERATION OF THE EUROPEAN IDEAL HAS PASSED", WHILE DANISH KNUD DAMGAARD SAID SCANDINAVIANS FOUND THE CONCEPT OF FEDERATED EUROPEAN STATE "INCREASINGLY UNREALISTIC". PERHAPS IN THE ABSENCE OF GAULLIST PARTICIPATION, NOT ONE ORATOR PLACED EUROPEAN INTEGRATION ABOVE ATLANTIC COOPERATION. DUTCH LABORITE, P. DANKERT SAID IT WAS "VITAL" TO DEVELOP A SYSTEM OF CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE NINE AND THE US WHICH SATISFIES JUSTIFIED US DEMANDS.

4. FEW NEW OR SPECIFIC PROPOSALS EMERGED FROM THE DEBATE. HOWEVER GERMAN SOCIALIST UWE HOLTZ CALLED FOR INCREASED ASSEMBLY POWERS AND DIRECT ELECTION OF ASSEMBLY PARLIAMENTARIANS. LORD LLOYD, PRESIDENT OF UK LIBERALS ALSO PROPOSED AN ASSEMBLY SESSION IN THE UNITED STATES, TO SYMBOLIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF ATLANTIC LINKS. NEITHER OF THESE IDEAS FOUND THEIR WAY TO THE ASSEMBLY'S FINAL RECOMMENDATION, PASSED BY UNANIMITY MAY 9, WHICH CALLS FOR UNDEFINED ACTIONS BY MEMBER GOVERNMENTS TO FOSTER MEDITERRANEAN SECURITY, EUROPEAN UNITY AND ATLANTIC COOPERATION. (TEXT OF RECOMMENDATION AND DEBATE POUCHED EUR/RPE.)WOODS

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